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KINGTON URBAN DISTRICT

HEREFORDSHIRE

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Annual Report

on the state of the Public Health

for the Year 1944.

Stevenson, Printer, Kington.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health:

H. F. Green, M.A., M.B., D.P.H. (on War Service from 17-7-42).

Acting Medical Officer of Health (Deputy County Medical Officer):

I. F. MacKenzie, M.D. (Edin.), D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.
(Priv. Tel. Weobley 59).

Clerk in Northern Area Medical Office:

B. J. Scandrett. (On War Service from 1939).

Temporary Clerk: Miss D. M. J. Bramfitt.

Sanitary Inspector: R. P. Morris, A.R.S.I, Westfield, Kington. (Tel. Kington 31).

Public Health Office:

4, Church Street, Leominster. (Tel. Leom. 95).

To the Chairman and Members of the Kington Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Members,

I present herewith the Annual Report for the year 1944.

The health of the community continued good throughout the twelve months and no serious epidemic occurred.

I have pleasure in once more placing on record the high standard maintained by your Sanitary Inspector in the execution of his varied duties.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

I. F. MACKENZIE,
Acting Medical Officer of Health.

June, 1945.

SECTION A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA:

Area (in Acres)	857
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1944) according to Rate Books	541
Rateable Value...	£8,868
Sum represented by a penny rate	£34/16/2

Extract from Vital Statistics of the Year:

Birth Rate (per 1,000 of the estimated resident population) ... 23.8
Stillbirth Rate (per 1,000 live and still births) 22.2
Death Rate (per 1,000 of estimated resident population) ... 14.3
Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births) 68.1
Deaths from Puerperal Causes: No deaths in 1944 were attributable to puerperal or other maternal causes.

Comparable Data for England and Wales 1944.

Birth Rate.	Still Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Infantile Mortality Rate.
17.6.	30.	11.6.	46.0.

SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA:

Laboratory Facilities:

Laboratory facilities continued to be available at the County Public Health Laboratory, Hereford, which, for the duration of the war, is under the administration of the Medical Research Council.

Clinics: There are none provided by the authority.

Under a County Council Scheme there is one Clinic conducted within the Urban District. It is a Child Welfare Centre which is open at 2-30 p.m. on alternate Tuesdays.

The nearest Veneral Diseases Clinic is at the County Hospital, Hereford.

I am indebted to Mr. R. P. Morris, Sanitary Inspector to the Council, for the following statement (Sections C. to E.) furnished under Article 27 (Sub-Section 18) of the Sanitary Officers (outside London) Regulations.

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES THE AREA.

Water: Sampling.

The water supply is obtained from a Spring at the Crooked Well. It comes direct from rock and is conveyed by pipe to the Pumping Station and then pumped to Reservoirs at top of the Town.

The water does not vary in quality. Fifteen samples are taken from different parts of the Town and there was no trace of pollution.

The supply has been efficient during the year.

Drainage and Sewerage.

A small number of drains have been relaid.

Rivers and Streams.

The effluent from the sewage works (which is discharged into a brook flowing to the River Arrow) has improved still further during the year as a result of the alterations carried out on the filter beds. More improvement is expected when the new sludge draining bed is in operation.

Refuse Disposal.

This takes the form of incineration which is carried out in a building on the Sewage Disposal site. The ashes are cleared occasionally for filling in where road work is in progress.

Sanitary Inspection.

Inspection of the area is regularly made and defects noted. Owners of the property are approached and in most cases there is little difficulty in having the necessary work carried out.

Defective Drains repaired	23
Water Closets repaired	4
Drain traps renewed	6
Sinks repaired	3
New Sinks provided	6
Defective water taps repaired	18

Defects of roofs and buildings have received such attention as was possible, it having to be borne in mind that extensive work is not possible on account of shortage of labour.

Notices Issued.

Informal	110
Statutory	Nil

Factories.

The factories situated within the area have been inspected. In all 84 visits were made. Though the premises are kept in a clean and satisfactory manner some defects were observed which have now been remedied.

Camping Sites.

Camping does not exist on a large scale. No sites are registered.

Bed Bugs.

One case was reported during the year. Disinfestation was carried out on the premises with satisfactory results.

SECTION D.—HOUSING.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year:

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health and Housing Acts ... 40
   (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 48
2. Number of dwelling houses found not to be, in all respects, reasonably fit for human habitation 15

Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:

Proceedings under Public Health Acts ... ... Nil

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ... Nil

Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:

(a) By Owners 37

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... Nil

Van Dwellings: There are none within the area.

SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Food Premises.

Routine inspections are carried out. The general standard of cleanliness is good. Special visits in connection with hygiene were made during the Dysentery outbreak.

Foods Surrendered.

The undermentioned foods were surrendered during the year:

Vegetables ...	160 lbs.	Luncheon meat...	34 tins.	Fresh & dried fish.	1 Cwt.
Dried Fruit ...	50 lbs.	Condensed milk	60 tins.	Potatoes	1 Cwt.
Margarine ...	24 lbs.	Preserves ...	117 tins.	Bacon and ham ...	510 lbs.
Cheese	44 lbs.	Fish	61 tins.	Mutton	8 lbs.

Food found to be unfit for human consumption.

All food found unfit for human or animal consumption is taken to the Destructor and burnt.

SECTION F.—PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Apart from the Dysentery outbreak Kington continued remarkably free from notifiable disease. Whooping Cough was the only other condition which provided more than an occasional case.

The Dysentery outbreak, which was of the Sonne type, has already been reported on fully to the Council. It is sufficient, therefore, to recall that there were 22 cases notified and that the steps which were taken to bring it under control were rapidly effective. A small proportion of persons in the community are symptomless carriers of the organism. Contamination of foodstuffs and spread of the disease occur very easily if personal hygiene is not carefully attended to.

Section F.—Continued.

The Urban District Council's arrangement with the Isolation Hospital Authority for the in-patient treatment of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria did not require to be utilised during the year.

Analysis of Total Notified Cases, according to age:

DISEASE.	Age of Patient.														
	0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	6-7	7-10	10-15	15-20	20-30	30-40	Over 40	Un-known	Total
Whooping Cough...	4	1	3	2	-	3	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	17
Scarlet Fever ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	7	12	-	1	-	-	22
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The state of Immunisation of the child population of the district at the end of 1944 is indicated in the table below.

Under 5 years of age.		Between 5 and 15 years of age.	
Number.	Percentage of Group.	Number.	Percentage of Group.
118	72.8%	317	96.3%

Tuberculosis.

At the end of 1944 the Tuberculosis Register contained the names of 9 males and 8 females who normally reside in the Council's area.

During the year 3 new cases were notified on account of Pulmonary Tuberculosis. During the same period no deaths of persons suffering from Tuberculosis occurred.

CAUSES OF DEATH (all ages).

Disease.	Male.	Female	Total.
Influenza	2	0	2
Cancer (all forms)	1	3	4
Diseases of Heart and Arteries ...	2	6	8
Pneumonia	1	1	2
Congenital Conditions	2	0	2
All Other Causes	5	4	9
Total	13	14	27